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Office of
Governmental
and Public Affairs

Major News Releases and Speeches

October 16-October 23, 1981

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Speeches

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Remarks of Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block at a ceremony for the Chinese-American Model Demonstration Bakery, Beijing, China, Oct. 19, 1981

This project was conceived more than 2 years ago when a proposal to build a model demonstration bakery was made. In July 1980, representatives of our two countries signed an agreement to construct that bakery. Soon, it will be a reality.

On the part of the United States, this bakery represents the support of U.S. wheat farmers in 13 major wheat-producing States, whose check-off funds contributed to the purchase of the bakery machinery to be used in this facility. U.S. wheat producers have contributed more support to this project than any other single activity in the history of wheat market development. It also represents the skills and support of U.S. milling and baking specialists and associations who have trained Chinese bakers that have returned home to pass on their skills and knowledge.

The Chinese have contributed the land and building we now see, the transportation, the labor and technical personnel, and all continuing costs of operating the bakery.

But more importantly, the Chinese have contributed their long term determination to improve the level and quality of Chinese diets. We applaud this effort. The Chinese leadership realized there was a need for a facility such as this one in China and invited us to participate in its development.

This bakery will be a model of modern equipment, processes and techniques, producing high-quality bread products. It also will serve as a site for seminars, workshops and short courses. The knowledge and skills that bakers from all over China will acquire here will be passed on when they return to their cities and villages to develop, construct, and operate other bakeries.

I would like to say just a few words about the importance of the Chinese market to U.S. farmers. In the few short years since we have normalized political relations, China has become our fourth largest

overseas market for agricultural products. U.S. farm sales to China have multiplied fourfold since the beginning of 1979, rising from 573 million in 1978 to a total of 2.2 billion last year. China has become our largest market for both wheat (1.1 billion) and cotton (701 million), and an important market for other items as well.

Chinese agricultural policy in the long term is aimed at self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector. But this production objective does not dim our hope for increased trade. We in the United States value the Chinese market and we see great potential in China for sales of U.S. wheat. It is our hope that this bakery will create a familiarity with and need for U.S. wheat in the Chinese market.

I would like to extend thanks to everyone involved in this project. I know that it involved long hours of planning, discussion, and work. And today, I know we have reason to be proud.

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Remarks by John E. Schrote, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, at the 6th Annual National Civil Rights Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 22, 1981

When approached to serve as keynote speaker for your 6th Annual Civil Rights Conference, I accepted with mixed feelings. After all, I had been back in the Department of Agriculture for only a short time, and hadn't yet publicly addressed the Department's Civil Rights position.

However, when an agency such as the Forest Service asks—with its reputation for innovation and policy leadership in managing natural and human resources—how could I refuse?

So I am glad to be with you. . . And I hope we can have some good discussions here.

We are witnessing a great many changes in the Federal work environment in this Administration . . . changes we know will be positive. Some of these changes are very basic and institutional. In some cases, they are even radical.

We are looking for ways to improve the economy. And the Forest Service has a vital role in that effort.

About one-third of the land area in the United States is forested. The Nation's well-being . . . the social and economic fabric of our society . . . depend on what we do with these lands—on how well we manage and use them.

So the Forest Service will be a valuable partner in our efforts to improve our Nation's economic state.

The philosophy of this Administration is to do the best job with the least resources—to do more with less.

We are looking at all that we have been doing . . . and how we are doing it . . . to ensure that it's appropriate that we do it . . . and, if so, that we do it effectively.

The focus is on management—management that emphasizes people as a valuable resource. This approach applies to all programs, including civil rights.

So, today I'll talk about three main areas of emphasis, relating to civil rights.

First area of emphasis . . . we're going to insist on good personnel practices—that we protect the integrity of Federal employment and personnel practices.

Area number two . . . We're going to continue to move our workforce toward a more representative mix of society.

And the third area . . . we're going to handle discrimination complaints fairly and more efficiently, including our programs. Insist on good personnel practices

From my experience in the Department of Agriculture—both in this Administration and under President Ford—I believe the career Civil Service system offers a great opportunity for continuing civil rights progress.

Protecting this system is an integral part of good personnel management. It's good for morale. It's good for increased employee productivity. And, therefore, it's good economically.

So we're going to insist on the integrity of this system—that Federal personnel practices be followed. No pre-selection . . . No favoritism in promotions . . . No "old boy" networks.

But we are going to use the principles of open competition. We are going to carry out an active and aggressive program to recruit a work force that fairly represents our society. And we hope to provide a uniform system of rewards and incentives for performance.

President Reagan has supported comparability in pay with the private sector. He most recently endorsed pay increases and lifting of the pay cap.

So my point is that—though he's tough . . . and has high expectations of each of us—he wants to reward those who meet his expectations.

I must add, however—even though the Senate approved some monetary relief—I am pessimistic about immediate relief. Right or wrong, the public is suspicious of bureaucracy . . . The public perceives an "us against them" attitude in their government.

Any relief for civil servants, therefore, will probably be limited—at least until we as public servants can demonstrate to the American people that we are sensitive and responsive to their problems.

In our system, there is no separation of government and the people. So—as public employees—we can and must take the lead to correct that present perception . . . to establish the real perception that government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

A lot of our problems are really management problems. I think that 90 percent of the EEO complaints that reach my desk, stem from the failure of managers to address personnel situations squarely, fairly, and early. With good, consistent, and fair management . . . with effective, on-going communications . . . I think we can address EEO situations before they become problems.

I believe management development training is one of the best ways to prepare strong, competent candidates for leading agency and department roles. With this Administration's emphasis on effective management, such training is imperative.

I look at employee development training—not as an EEO program—but as a good personnel practice to develop and tap the best capabilities of our people.

But let's not ignore the point that training programs also offer real equal opportunity. I hope that—through our competitive process—many more Blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans,

handicapped, and women will participate in these programs.

It's inexcusable to me that the Department of Agriculture has no Hispanics in the Senior Executive Service . . . and that our representation above GS-13 isn't very good either. This Administration expects to see some improvement here, for example.

And I hope, too—as these individuals move through this training—that we don't abandon them. Our job isn't done in this area until we've channeled these employees into responsible positions.

Concrete action in civil rights

Even with good management, however, there will be a continuing need for concrete civil rights action.

This Administration clearly recognizes the significant gains that have been made in equal opportunity within the Federal government. And there is no intent to retreat from that progress. We must continue to move our workforce toward a more representative mix of society.

During this period of belt-tightening and program scrutiny, we know that promoting equal employment is both good management and sound policy. We want to develop and utilize our employees according to their potential. We want to do this justly, and with equal opportunity for all. The results of our actions should:

- Gain the greatest benefit out of each person's abilities.
- Give each person pride and satisfaction in what he or she does.
- Set a positive example of compliance with all laws and regulations.
- And establish the Department of Agriculture as a leader in equal opportunity.

A good example of the sort of substantive accomplishment I mean is President Reagan's appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman Supreme Court Justice. I understand she just received a T-shirt that says, "One down, eight more to go."

This is an important signal that we will take solid, decisive action to eradicate discrimination and unequal opportunity. This is a significant example because it is an action of lasting duration.

We want to continue our progress in civil rights . . . and this has to be done in line with our commitment to doing more with less. We will

be looking for new, more innovative and creative ways to achieving these objectives.

However, we will not abandon the successful programs we already have, such as upward mobility, minority contracting, support to Historically Black Colleges, and public outreach. We need to see that our efforts in those areas are effective and efficient.

Let's take a moment to consider each of these programs:

Upward mobility should yield positive results . . . and if it does, let's expand it. If it doesn't, let's rework it. Candidates selected for Upward Mobility programs should be developed to the point of becoming competitive . . . then placed into the mainstream, so others may move onto the ladder.

Support for Historically Black Colleges requires more attention. I know the Forest Service is doing great things in this area . . . but much more can be done. We need the best and brightest from these institutions, to help keep America strong.

President Reagan recently issued an Executive Order to strengthen these Historically Black Colleges. This action carries out a campaign promise . . . and we have responded by establishing a Department-wide task force to coordinate our initiatives in the Department of Agriculture. I chair this task force, and there are representatives from all areas of the Department.

It seems to me that the agencies of the Department have a variety of tools available to them, which can help improve the management, financial structure, and research at these colleges. Perhaps research grants to these colleges could be targeted more closely to the needs of the Forest Service . . . such as in wood utilization or other production oriented research.

Not only would this support these colleges—but it would establish closer ties with the Department of Agriculture and yield a pool of possible researchers or participants in the Faculty Summer Employment program. And this benefits the private sector as well.

Contracting may increase because of the imminent reduction of the Federal workforce. And for the Forest Service especially—which is losing YACC and YCC programs—much more work will be contracted out.

Minorities and women will have an opportunity to participate—not only in 8(a) set-aside type contracts, but also in the open marketplace where they compete with all bidders as well.

Through public outreach we need to get "nontraditional" publics more involved in our decisions. People are more likely to accept decisions when they help formulate them . . . and when they observe the entire decision-making process.

So we need to find new ways to involve "nontraditional" publics in Forest Service programs. One way that comes immediately to mind is your use of volunteers. This program can do a lot to increase the public's appreciation of its forest resources . . . as well as accomplish a lot of work. So I'm pleased to hear of the Forest Service's plans to triple its use of volunteers.

Increase EEO Complaint Efficiency

Let me turn, then, to the third area of emphasis I want to discuss with you. We are going to increase the efficiency with which we handle EEO complaints within the Department of Agriculture. We will be taking two main initiatives.

The first will be to remove the adjudication and appeals functions from the advocacy function. That is, we will consolidate the EEO appeals and adjudication programs that are now in the Office of Equal Opportunity . . . with the personnel grievance programs in the Office of Personnel.

This will prevent duplicate grievances, which have taken a great deal of unnecessary time . . . and it will allow prompter and more efficient processing of legitimate complaints.

The second thing we will do is discourage frivolous discrimination complaints that have been clogging and slowing down the EEO appeals system. We are very interested in addressing and resolving those legitimate issues that should be heard.

For example, I have already made it a point that we will not reopen any EEO cases that have been already handled in the Courts. That has taken some explaining to some Members of Congress . . . but I believe they understand that these cases have been already decided.

Future challenges

Secretary Block clearly intends that the Forest Service assume a greater role in meeting the country's growing needs. While the short-term budgetary outlook may seem to contradict this . . . renewable resource management is long-term.

There is no question that we need competent natural resource managers and specialists. Never before has it been more apparent that many of them must be female and minority . . . because all must share in solving the problems ahead.

Let me list some of the things a public agency should do:

- It should educate the general public about the potential for good natural resource management.
- It should provide technical, educational, or other assistance to institutions of higher education which have high minority enrollments.
- It should sponsor joint natural resource studies with States and with educational institutions, involving significant minority and female participation.
- In the same way, it should develop joint programs with the private sector . . . and with other public agencies . . . to improve the representation of women and minorities in natural resource management.
- And it should target federal expenditures to ensure that institutions with large ratios of blacks and other minorities—or with a good track record of affirmative action—receive an equitable share.

You can build on and vigorously pursue progress in each of these areas after you leave this conference.

However, there is one key question which public institutions must ask . . . and a message they must deliver.

The question is, have we evaluated what we've been doing . . . to determine its relevance to current needs?

This is the key question. It is important to our programs. . . essential to our jobs as managers . . . and vital to the future of the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture.

What Can You Do?

Now, what can you do to help me?

We are reviewing the managerial environment before us. And we are assuming that . . . even if it's not permanent . . . it will last for a considerable length of time.

You can help me by working from that assumption and looking for new opportunities. This calls for innovation and initiative on both our parts.

You are the experts. Don't wait for an "epistle" from on high. Please don't sit back, wring your hands, and wallow in negativism—which will only hinder, rather than help. It's a new time and a new direction . . . with a whole new set of incentives.

You are challenged . . . Propose to me the policies you believe will fit within our economic and philosophical guidelines.

Look at this as an opportunity to create new circumstances and events. A chance to find new means of advancing our cause—of eliminating discrimination . . . instilling personal pride . . . providing equal access to our programs . . . and removing institutional barriers—without hindering our cause . . . and without hindering the mission which the electorate has given each of us through the President and the Congress.

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Testimony

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Statement of John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, United States House of Representatives, Oct. 22, 1981

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Administration's views on two bills, H.R. 9 and H.R. 4474, that would expand the National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of Florida. H.R. 9 also includes provisions regarding issuance of phosphate leases on the Osceola National Forest.

I will comment on the wilderness proposals and the phosphate lease provisions. The wilderness proposals outlined in H.R. 9 and H.R. 4474 include six new wildernesses and one addition to an existing wilderness, in total encompassing about 50,000 acres. The proposals are located on the three National Forests in Florida, the Apalachicola in the northwest part of the State, the Osceola in the northcentral part, and the Ocala to the south.

All seven areas are roadless or undeveloped areas on National Forest System lands in Florida that were included in the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). Beginning with the areas in H.R. 4474, I will briefly describe each area and highlight significant features and any differences between the bill and our recommendations.

H.R. 4474 would designate four new wildernesses on the Ocala National Forest in central Florida totaling 26,870 acres. We support these proposals with a minor acreage correction. The boundaries of these areas have been perfected in H.R. 4474 and they differ slightly from the earlier RARE II recommendations.

The 3,120-acre Billies Bay Wilderness is the same as the RARE II recommendation. The major attraction of the area is the abundant wildlife. We support this proposal.

Immediately to the south and east, separated by a paved State highway and campground development, is the proposed Alexander Springs Wilderness. This subtropical area contains the creek originating at Alexander Springs, a major spring with a flow of 76 million gallons per day. H.R. 4474 excludes an area previously included in the 11,900-acre RARE II recommendation which contained summer homes, power lines, and roads located on National Forest System land. We concur with this exclusion and recommend designation of a 7,700-acre wilderness.

H.R. 4474 would designate a Little Lake George Wilderness that encompasses 2,500 acres. A 3,040-acre Little Lake George Wilderness was recommended as a result of RARE II. The area excluded from the RARE II recommendation includes approximately 500 acres on the northern part of the area where there is occasional motorboat use on the streams traversing the area and a woods trail used for access by hunters. We concur with this exclusion and support the 2,500-acre wilderness proposal.

The Juniper Prairie Wilderness proposal in H.R. 4474 encompasses 13,550 acres. It is similar to the RARE II recommendation with the exception of 50 acres at the eastern edge of this area that is excluded to provide for the continued administrative use of Sweetwater Cabin. We agree with this exclusion. However, we recommend deleting approximately 340 acres from the original RARE II proposal of 13,600 acres rather than 50 acres so the cabin and associated roads are not included in the wilderness while providing a manageable boundary. We, therefore, recommend the acreage for the Juniper Prairie Wilderness be 13,260 acres.

H.R. 9 would designate two new wildernesses on the National Forests in Florida totaling 21,850 acres and add 1,170 acres to one existing wilderness. Section 4 would generally prohibit phosphate leasing on the Osceola National Forest.

The proposed Mud Swamp/New River Wilderness on the Apalachicola National Forest included in H.R. 9 encompasses essentially the same area of 8,250 acres considered during RARE II. H.R. 9 includes a 2 1/2-mile corridor along the New River at the northwest corner of the area. We recommend that this corridor be excluded from the proposal because it is separated from the area by a

frequently used forest road and concrete bridge. Furthermore, the 2 1/2-mile long, half-mile wide corridor, along the New River would be difficult to manage for wilderness purposes because of its elongated shape and lack of on-the-ground boundary features.

The Mud Swamp area without the New River addition would be a suitable addition to the Wilderness System and includes extensive swamp and forest habitat for a variety of wildlife, including alligator and Florida panthers (cougars). A review of this area's boundaries indicated an acreage computation error; consequently, we recommend that the acreage be changed to "seven thousand one hundred acres" and the name references be changed to "Mud Swamp Wilderness".

The acreage reference in H.R. 9 to the proposed 170-acre Sopchoppy River addition to the Bradwell Bay Wilderness on the Apalachicola National Forest appears to be a typographic error and actually refers to the 1,170-acre wilderness addition that includes the narrow serpentine channel of the Sopchoppy River that tunnels its way through swamps, and pine-palmetto flatwoods. This is a wilderness study area designated in the Act of January 3, 1975. We support wilderness designation for the 1,170-acre addition to the Bradwell Bay Wilderness.

The proposed 13,600-acre Big Gum Swamp Wilderness on the Osceola National Forest is a large continuous cypress gum swamp. Applications are pending for phosphate preference right leases on about one quarter of the tract. We recommend deferral of wilderness designation for Big Gum Swamp until the Secretary of the Interior determines whether the preference right leases should be issued and also provides a better idea of the location and value of the mineable deposits.

Section 4 of H.R. 9 contains two major provisions regarding the phosphate issue. The first would generally prohibit phosphate leasing in the Osceola National Forest and the second would direct the Secretary of the Interior, within 3 years of the date of enactment of the bill, to exchange phosphate preference right lease applications on which discoveries of valuable deposits have been made for leases covering other minerals subject to the Mineral Leasing Act without competitive bidding. Exchanges would be on an equal value basis, subject to equalization by the payment of either party of up to 25 percent of the value of the leases to be issued by the Secretary. If within 4 years of

the date of enactment, the Secretary is unable to effect an exchange covering any phosphate lease application covered by the bill, section 4(g) requires the acquisition of lease rights by purchase or condemnation.

The phosphate leasing provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue exclusive two-year prospecting permits to qualified applicants where prospecting or exploratory work is necessary to determine the existence or workability of phosphate deposits and to renew such permits under certain circumstances. If the permittee shows the Secretary that valuable deposits of phosphate have been discovered, the permittee is entitled to a lease for all or any of the land under the prospecting permit.

The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, which authorizes leasing of minerals on certain acquired lands under the same conditions as those in the Mineral Leasing Act, specifically establishes the role of the Secretary of Agriculture in consenting to the leasing of mineral deposits. The Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe conditions to insure the adequate utilization of the lands for the primary purposes for which they have been acquired or are being administered. A copy of the pertinent provision of the Act is attached.

Although the Secretary of Agriculture is not authorized to deny the issuance of leases, the statute would require that the Secretary prescribe adequate conditions to protect the affected area so that its primary purposes will not be obliterated. Pursuant to the above mentioned provisions, 92 prospecting permits covering about 144,000 acres in the Osceola National Forest were issued between 1965 and 1968. During the period from July 1969 through May 1972, 41 applications for preference right phosphate leases covering about 52,000 acres of the permitted lands were filed by four companies. No leases have yet been issued.

The standard permit issued for phosphate prospecting in the Osceola contains a list of special stipulations. Stipulation No. 3 states: "In the event the permittee makes application for mining lease on any lands under this permit the Forest Service reserves the right to include in such mining lease special stipulations to protect surface values." It is clear from this provision that the Forest Service, at the time it consented to issuance of the prospecting permit recognized its right to

reserve the authority to protect the surface of the lands in the Osceola through lease stipulations. By its signature, the permittee agreed to the terms of the permit, including the authority to exercise this reserved right by the Forest Service.

The statutory and contractual authorities I have cited provide ample support for the Forest Service through the Secretary of Agriculture, to impose lease restrictions on the mining companies in order to protect the primary surface values in the Osceola National Forest.

In the last few months, there have been a series of meetings with industry representatives to review current reclamation technology used in central Florida to reclaim phosphate mining areas. Preliminary on-the-ground review of mining areas indicates that satisfactory soil conditions can be created by proper planning and execution of the mining and reclamation process. Reclamation to date has been satisfactory for establishment of shallow-rooted vegetation to meet State reclamation requirements. Observations indicate that technology to establish shallow-rooted species can be further refined to create soil conditions satisfactory for tree growth, although we have not seen or tested such results. We expect to have necessary lease stipulations developed by December of this year that will assure affected sites are reclaimed for timber production and other resource uses and that a necessary balance between uplands and wetlands is achieved. At that time, the Secretary of the Interior can complete the administrative process to determine if the valuable deposit requirement for leasing has been satisfied. This determination compares all the estimated costs of developing and operating the mine with estimated revenues. The determination takes into account compliance with all applicable mining, surface protection, and reclamation requirements. The completion of this process would determine if economic deposits exist and thus whether the permittees are entitled to preference leases.

We have concerns about the feasibility and costs of the exchange proposed in section 4. Assuming the Secretary of Agriculture and the lease applicants can agree on terms for restoration after mining, the Secretary of the Interior could determine deposits of substantial value exist. Experience with similar exchanges of mineral interest indicates the process for identifying and evaluating minerals suitable for exchange is extremely time consuming and it is difficult to reach

agreement on value. This could lead to purchase of the mineral rights under the provision of section 4(g). This Administration is opposed to such exchanges or purchases for the following reasons. The prospector accepted permits with the contractual understanding that the Secretary of Agriculture had the right to stipulate mining and reclamation requirements for environmental protection. No right of ownership has been conveyed by the government. Only if a valuable deposit has been found does a lease applicant have a compensable right. The exchange provisions of section 4 could be construed to give lease applicants an undetermined value of the phosphates by law--such value to be subject to a mineral exchange or cash. Section 4(g) gives the lease applicant an effective veto of exchange values which would result in litigation to determine the amount of cash payment.

Because of the progress being made in reclamation technology, the costs and difficulties associated with the proposed exchanges, and the likelihood that a purchase of mineral rights could result in substantial costs, we do not believe it is necessary or desirable to withdraw the Osceola National Forest from phosphate leasing. Therefore, we oppose the provisions of section 4 that would prohibit phosphate leasing on the Osceola National Forest, and terminate leases through exchange or acquisition.

We note that neither bill includes provision for release of nonwilderness areas nor does it set specific time limits for congressional action on recommendations for additional wilderness which may be generated from the further planning process. It is the Administration's position that these concepts are of such importance that no additions to the Wilderness System should be made without providing at the same time equally assured status to unroaded lands designated for multiple uses other than wilderness in RARE II, or which may be recommended for wilderness as a result of the further planning process. We, therefore, urge that language embodying these concepts be included in any Florida wilderness legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my statement. I would be happy to respond to your questions.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

USDA SETS RULES FOR IMPORTING MARES FROM CEM-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now allow breeding age mares to be imported from countries affected with contagious equine metritis, a venereal disease of horses, but only under strict testing and treatment procedures.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said no breeding age mares have been permitted to be imported from these countries since the disease was discovered in 1977.

"The new import requirements include intensive testing and treatment procedures to assure that mares are free of the disease," Atwell said.

A key element is the surgical removal of the clitoral sinuses from the mares. Contagious equine metritis bacteria are most likely to remain in the clitoral sinuses after clinical signs of the disease have disappeared, he said. These tissues are also the most difficult to test and treat.

Under the new rules, government veterinarians in the country of origin must collect a test specimen immediately before surgery. Both the test specimens and the excised tissues will then be cultered for bacteria.

After surgery, the mare would have five days of intensive treatment. Then the mare must pass three negative tests for contagious equine metritis at intervals of at least seven days. The final tests must be taken no more than 30 days before she is exported to the United States.

If any of these tests showed infection, the mares could not be shipped, Atwell said.

At the port-of-entry quarantine in the United States the mares will be checked for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis and equine infectious anemia. They will then be consigned for contagious equine metritis treatment and testing in a state that has agreed to accept mares

from affected countries under state and federal laws to prevent the disease.

Post-entry treatment and testing include five days of treatment, followed by a series of three tests at intervals of not less than seven days. Mares passing all of these procedures with negative results will be released from quarantine.

Pregnant mares must remain in quarantine until they foal. Both mare and foal must pass negative tests for contagious equine metritis. All work in the country of origin must be supervised by the government's veterinarians, and diagnostic testing must be in laboratories approved by those governments.

Contagious equine metritis is a venereal disease of horses that directly infects only the mares. Stallions may be mechanical carriers of the bacteria; however, they may be rendered free of the disease by thorough scrubbing and treatment of their genitalia.

Countries listed by USDA as affected with the disease are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Text of the new regulation is scheduled to be published in the Oct. 16 Federal Register.

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USDA'S FEDERAL GRAIN INSPECTION SERVICE TO REDUCE FIELD FORCE BY 271 NOV. 1

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service will reduce its field office staff in 44 locations by 271 persons on Nov. 1.

Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator of the agency, said this is the second phase of the agency's reorganization announced last month. He said the current field office force of 1,216 will be reduced to 945 as of Nov. 1. None of the present 44 field offices will be closed or moved at this time, he said. However, the five regional offices, located in Atlanta, Ga., Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., Dallas, Texas, and Seattle, Wash., will be closed as previously announced.

"This action will complete the reduction in force needed to increase the efficiency of the agency and hold down costs to users," Gilles said.

"Under recent legislation, this agency is now required to recover about 90 percent of its costs through user fees, compared with about 60 percent before this fiscal year.

"The reduction of our field staff, coupled with the earlier reduction in the headquarters staff, will allow us to reduce overall costs while still carrying out our mandate from Congress—to facilitate domestic and international trade in grain and related commodities."

Earlier this month, the agency eliminated 77 positions from the headquarters staff, downgraded 45 positions, laterally reassigned the remaining 139 positions and changed the organizational structure.

The Federal Grain Inspection Service is responsible for administering a nationwide system of official inspection and weighing and for establishing official standards for grain and related commodities.

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U.S. MARKETING OFFICES TO REPRESENT GRAINS AND SOYBEANS IN CHINA

BEIJING, Oct. 19—Plans to open trade offices in China for U.S. wheat, feed grain and soybean producer associations mark a "new era" for U.S. agricultural trade with China, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

U.S. Wheat Associates, a non-profit organization representing U.S. wheat producers and traders, and the American Soybean Association plan to open permanent offices in Beijing in 1982 to represent these major export commodities, Block said. The U.S. Feed Grains Council, representing producers of corn, grain sorghum and other feed grains, has already scheduled to open its Beijing office next January.

Block was in Beijing for trade talks with Chinese officials and to visit a demonstration bakery soon to be opened under U.S.-Chinese sponsorship.

At the bakery, Block and a representative of U.S. Wheat Associates officially turned over to China U.S. baking equipment that will be

installed and in full operation by year's end. The equipment was contributed by wheat producers in 13 states that support the work of U.S. Wheat Associates.

Block said the Chinese Ministry of Light Industry contributed the land, building, transportation, labor and technical personnel, and will pay continuing costs to operate the bakery.

The bakery, which will train Chinese technicians in U.S. wheat and flour use, is the result of three years of market promotion activity and is a joint venture of USDA and U.S. Wheat Associates, Block said.

Block said the interest of cooperator associations is "a bright spot in the future of U.S. agricultural trade with China. They bridge the U.S. desire to expand exports of farm products with China's interests in improving agricultural and processing technology."

Cotton producers are represented in China by Cotton Council International which recently sent a U.S. cotton seed team to China and is planning further exchanges. Block said the council does not have immediate plans for a resident office in Beijing, but both the American Soybean Association and U.S. Feed Grains Council will employ resident directors to carry on promotion activities.

The Feed Grains Council has projects in swine breeding and dairy management in China.

The soybean association is sponsoring exchange teams with the Chinese, and technical and educational efforts to disseminate product information within China.

Other commodity organizations active in China include the Holstein Association, representing the largest U.S. dairy breed, and the National Renderers Association, which promotes exports of lard and tallow.

Since the normalization of diplomatic relations with China, that country has become the fourth largest export market for U.S. agricultural products. U.S. farm sales to China have multiplied fourfold since 1978, rising from \$573 million in 1978 to almost \$1 billion in 1979 and \$2.2 billion in 1980. China is the largest U.S. market for wheat (\$1.1 billion) and cotton (\$701 million).

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D. GALE JOHNSON NAMED 1981 SEAMAN KNAPP MEMORIAL LECTURER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19—D. Gale Johnson, chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago, will deliver the 1981 Seaman Knapp memorial lecture here Nov. 9.

The lecture, the second in an annual series, will be part of the program for a meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges at the Washington Hilton Hotel Nov. 8-11. The speaker's subject will be productivity.

Johnson's selection to deliver the lecture was announced today by Mary Nell Greenwood, administrator of the Extension Service, educational arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Greenwood said this year's lecture is part of a continuing tribute to the history of the Cooperative Extension Services, which provide informal educational programs for people at the state and local levels in cooperation with the USDA.

The lecture gets its name from Seaman A. Knapp (1833-1911), whom Greenwood described as "the father of the Cooperative Extension concept."

"Knapp's success as the national leader of the farm and home demonstration system helped bring about the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. That legislation resulted in the organization of the Cooperative Extension Services in every state.

"The Knapp principle of demonstration education involved more than just a new teaching method. It represented a deep insight into the motivation of people. It was a political as well as an educational insight," Greenwood said.

Johnson is the Eliakim Hastings Moore Distinguished Service Professor and has been an agricultural economist at the University of Chicago since 1944.

A native of Iowa, Johnson earned bachelor and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University, Ames, and a masters degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Both are land grant institutions.

The author or co-author of over 200 articles and other items on domestic and international agricultural economics, Johnson also is a consultant and economic advisor.

Over his 40-year career, Johnson has held memberships on various national or presidential advisory committees and task forces. Recently, he was a member of the steering committee for the President's Food and Nutrition Study, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.

Johnson is a former member or officer of numerous scientific and economic organizations. He is past president of the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago, and of the American Farm Economic Association. Currently, he is a fellow with the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the Trilateral Commission.

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LOCALIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM ANNOUNCED BY FCIC

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—All-risk crop insurance will be more easily accessible to farmers by a plan to localize the sale of crop insurance to farmers through local crop insurance agents.

The plan, which should be in effect in all areas of the country by spring 1981, was announced today by Wayne Fletcher, president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Fletcher said the use of local agents will improve service and be an added convenience for farmers presently served by a multi-county FCIC office or county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

He said farmers who have not already selected a new agent by the time the multi-county FCIC offices are closed will be provided with a list of agents from which to choose.

"The choice of a service office is up to the farmer," said Fletcher. He said FCIC will assign insurance files to local crop insurance agents in cases where policyholders fail to make their own selection. These policyholders will be informed of their assigned agent when the file is transferred. However, farmers have the option of changing service agents up to the earliest sales closing date for their insured fall and spring crops, according to Fletcher.

All-risk crop insurance policies now are available from agents and

agencies contracted with FCIC and from private companies reinsured by FCIC. These policies offer the same protection and cost.

All-risk policyholders have the option to buy hail and fire protection included in the basic policy or to purchase protection included in the basic policy or to purchase substitute protection from private companies.

"Farming today is an extremely risky business," said Fletcher. "More and more farmers and lenders are recognizing the importance of all-risk crop insurance as a risk management tool. In the past year, use of crop insurance by farmers has doubled in many areas."

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MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC AREA DESIGNATED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—Mount St. Helens, site of volcanic eruptions since March, 1980, has been designated the first National Volcanic Area, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official announced today.

R. Max Peterson, chief of the USDA's Forest Service, said he made the designation in recognition of the international and national scientific and public interest in this unique area and to provide additional protection for its important geologic features.

The designated area includes 84,710 acres within and adjacent to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the State of Washington.

A land management plan for Mount St. Helens was issued by the Forest Service Oct. 15.

In adopting that plan, the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Richard Worthington, in Portland, Ore., recommended that Mount St. Helens be classified a national volcanic area. This designation also was recommended by Washington Governor John Spellman, members of the congressional delegation and others.

Chief Peterson said he was happy to accept these recommendations.

"This designation, the only one of its kind, highlights the uniqueness of this significant area," Peterson said. "It also will give additional emphasis to our efforts to protect the area for research,

public education, interpretation and recreation." It joins the Madison River Earthquake Area in Montana, Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska, Blanchard Springs Caverns in Arkansas and other designated natural wonders in the 190-million acre National Forest System," he said.

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FOOD STAMP INDICTMENTS UP SHARPLY, USDA REPORT SHOWS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—Indictments for food stamp violations almost doubled in fiscal year 1981, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said.

There were 799 indictments for food stamp offenses in fiscal 1981, an increase of 96 percent over the 407 in fiscal 1980, according to a report to the secretary by USDA's Office of the Inspector General.

John V. Graziano, USDA's inspector general, said this significant increase is due, in part, to the increased involvement of state and local law enforcement agencies in OIG cases. Graziano said state and local police have been more involved in food stamp cases because many food stamp traffickers are engaged in other crimes of interest to these authorities.

Food stamp indictments were obtained in 40 states, Guam and Puerto Rico during this period. There were 127 indictments in Tennessee, 70 in New York, 58 in Kansas, 50 in Missouri and 46 in Connecticut.

Tennessee and Missouri are among 22 states participating in a USDA program that pays 75 percent of costs for state investigations and prosecutions of food stamp fraud.

In 1981 there were 1,051 indictments in all USDA programs, including the 799 food stamp indictments. The conviction rate for OIG indictments remains above 90 percent, Graziano said.

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USDA PROJECT TO HELP NEW FARMERS, RANCHERS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23—Ten states and 81 counties will be involved initially in a new U.S. Department of Agriculture project to help part-time and beginning farmers and ranchers become full-time and successful.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said no new funds or programs will be required for this project.

"Rather, we will bring together in a coordinated effort, local representatives of the public and private sectors who will volunteer to help the family and ranchers plan for successful operations."

Here's how the project works: Family Farmer and Rancher Development Committees will be formed in each of the 81 pilot counties. These committees will review applications of candidates for the project, and will help candidates prepare annual and long-range farm or ranch plans.

Members of the committees will include farmers and ranchers already serving on committees or boards who assist in the local operations of USDA agencies such as: Agricultural Cooperative Service; Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; Cooperative Extension Service; Farmers Home Administration; Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; Forest Service; Soil Conservation Service and any other USDA agencies operating in the county.

USDA professionals employed by the agencies will provide technical assistance.

"An important ingredient in the project is active participation by local private organizations, institutions and individuals," Block said. "These people know what it takes to run a successful operation."

The local development committees may also include representatives of farm organizations, farm supply and marketing cooperatives, farm lending institutions and vocational agriculture programs.

The local committees will recruit volunteers from knowledgeable active and retired farmers and ranchers, and retired management experts to counsel program participants.

Participants unable to obtain suitable financing from conventional sources to implement their plans, will be referred to USDA's Farmers Home Administration. If eligible, participants will receive FmHA operating and/or real estate loans.

With the guidance provided in the project, the participating farmers and ranchers are expected to be ready to move on to the Farm Credit System or other commercial credit within five or ten years, according to Frank W. Naylor, Jr., USDA's under secretary for small community and rural development.

States and counties participating in the pilot project are:

Illinois—Greene, Jefferson, Kankakee, McDonough and Stephenson counties.

Minnesota—Clearwater, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Murray, Olmsted and Ottertail counties.

Mississippi—Calhoun, Copiah, George, Monroe, Newton, Pearl River, Pontotoc, Quitman, Washington and Yazoo counties.

Missouri—Barry, Cape Girardeau, Douglas, Johnson, Livingston, Mississippi, Nodaway, Osage, Randolph and Texas counties.

Nebraska—Box Butte, Buffalo, Custer, Dodge, Gage, Greeley, Knox, Red Willow, Wayne and York counties.

North Carolina—Alleghany, Jackson, Nash, Northampton and Yadkin counties.

North Dakota—Bottineau, Emmons, Hettinger, LaMoure, Mercer, Pierce, Richland, Sheridan, Stark and Williams counties.

Oregon—Clackamas, Douglas, Jefferson, Klamath, Linn, Malheur and Union counties.

Pennsylvania—Berks, Bradford, Center, Columbia, Crawford, Franklin, Huntington, Lancaster, Somerset and York counties.

Texas—Haskell, Houston, Menard, Milan, Pecos, Starr and Van Zandt counties.

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